



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 27.08.2023

“Slow and Interruptible”

Preacher

Rev. Dr. Adam Dodds

Scripture

“When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” 24 So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.”

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

31 “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and,



trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Mark 5:21-34

Thought

Why does God ask questions when He already knows the answers? Could it be that the bible isn't there for us to read and find answers, but rather for us to stop, to consider, to deeply ponder. When we do this, we begin to see the deeper meaning and narrative of the Bible. It leads us to reflect and think and to understand the goodness that God has put in scripture.

The first question that God asks in the Bible is found in Genesis 3. “Where are you?”. It's less a question and more a statement of God's relational heart for humanity. It's a glimpse of a Father that searches for His children, longing to reestablish the relationship that we had broken.

From the very first question in Genesis to the moment when Jesus arrives on the scene, we see this common thread. A loving God, always seeking restoration of relationship, always looking to draw us back to Himself. Jesus personified this in each interaction.

Jesus was always unhurried. He was on the most important mission of all time, but He never seemed pressed for time. It was as if nothing was an interruption to him, He seemed to see opportunity in each encounter. He wasn't one to pass by the needy, or the lonely, or the desperate. He always found time to be interrupted, to stop and honour the humanity of those who came into contact with Him. It's a challenge for us to learn the same. To slow down, to see, to really see those around us as we go about our daily rituals. To make room and open our lives, to be open to God, to be open to others, expecting the Spirit to lead us. To slow down, to enjoy creation around us, to not place our worth on our busyness, but to stop the whirlwind and live a life unhurried and interruptible.

Jesus stopped in the middle of a life and death situation to minister to the woman with the issue of blood. He offered her grace, mercy, dignity. There was no condemnation, no finger pointing, just a heart of love. Here we see



again the character of God, which from the very beginning has been asking “where are you”, longing to draw us in, to restore relationship, just waiting for us to reach out to Him and touch the hem of His garment.

It’s the glorious marriage of our actions and His limitless grace. To reach out to Christ in faith, and for Him, in His mercy and love, to reach back out to us and heal us, making us clean, restoring our dignity, making us whole.

Today, may we learn to slow down and may we learn to reach out - to Christ and to those around us. To act in faith, and to allow margin in our lives for God to do great things in, and through us as we follow Him.

Discussion Points

1. Do I often find myself in a hurry? If so, have I ever considered why? What are the underlying reasons?
2. What might it look like, practically, to slow down? Is there one thing I can change this week?
3. What does it look like to act in faith? Is there someone in my life this week who I can reach out to in faith and be an example of Christ’s love?

Personal application + Prayer

Lord,

I stop, and become aware of You. You, who are closer to me than the air I breathe. You, who since the beginning has longed to find me, to reach out to me, to make me whole again. Teach me how to slow down. Teach me to ever be aware of you. Teach me to find my purpose wholly in You, and not in the things I do. May I truly know your heart, and reflect this to those around me as I act in faith.

Amen.



Recommended Reading:

On living unhurried:

[*The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*](#) - John Mark Comer

Podcast based on the above: [\[Apple Music\]](#) [\[Spotify\]](#)

[*An Unhurried Life*](#) - Alan Fadling